

A tiny bit of learning, a whole lot of fun

BY PAUL IRISH
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It's more than just fun and games at this day camp.

Kids at the East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club have a terrific summer laughing and making friends, but they also leave with a bit more knowledge and increased life skills.

"It's called learning by playing," said Dennis Holm, who oversees the Hot Days Camp. "In the summer you have to stimulate a kid's mind. That's what really keeps them going."

As an example, he said the campers enjoy playing trivia games. But instead of questions about sports personali-

ties, a typical game may ask questions about how to look for a job.

"It's still fun, and the kids start picking up on what they hear," said Holm. "Everyone wants to be part of it."

Recently, the camp had its own Carnival week, where the focus turned to the Caribbean.

"The kids learned how to make curried chicken and rice with dumplings," he said. "It was great food and the kids learned a bit about cooking and a lot about another culture. They loved it."

The camp has about 130 children at any given time.

Holm said Hot Days has kids

coming back four or five years in a row, and that it's the highlight of the summer for many.

Every year, thousands of children rely on the generosity of our readers to send them to camp. Please send donations to the Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund, One Yonge St., Toronto, Ont., M5E 1E6.